30 Days of Prayer: Day 19 – Woman at the Well

This entry is part 19 of 23 in the series 30 Days of Prayer

Jesus said to the Samaritan woman:

> Jesus answered her, "If you knew the gift of God and who it is that asks you for a drink, you would have asked him and he would have given you living water." (John 4:10, NIV)

30 Days of Prayer
- 30 Days of Prayer: Day 1 Am I too busy to see?
- 30 Days of Prayer: Day 2 "Jesus saw"
- 30 Days of Prayer: Day 3
- 30 Days of Prayer: Day 4
- 30 Days of Prayer: Day 5
- 30 Days of Prayer: Day 6
- 30 days of Prayer: Day 7 The Process of Evangelism
- 30 Days of Prayer Day 8: Spiritual Blindness
- 30 Days of Prayer Day 9: The Pearl of Great Price
- 30 Days of Prayer Day 10: Surprised by Joy
- 30 Days of Prayer: Day 11 Scattering the Seed
- 30 Days of Prayer: Day 12 – The mystery of conversion
- 30 Days of Prayer: Day 13 – Conversion process is discernable
- 30 Days of Prayer: Day 14 – Harvest
- 30 Days of Prayer: Day 15 – The soil
- 30 Days of Prayer: Day 16 – Spiritual Thirst
- 30 Days of Prayer: Day 17 – Spiritual Thirst Study
- 30 Days of Prayer: Day 18 – Common Spiritual Thirsts
- 30 Days of Prayer: Day 19 – Woman at the Well
- 30 Days of Prayer: Day 20 – Spiritual Thirst and Good Works
- 30 Days of Prayer – Day 21: Tell of All His Works
- 30 Days of Prayer: Day 22 – Tell of His Love
- 30 Days of Prayer — Day 23: Who is Jesus to me?

Jesus has a remarkable insight.

He knew the true spiritual thirst of this Samaritan woman.

As Jesus passed through Samaria, even the heat of the day got Him exhausted (John 4:6).

Trying to hide in broad daylight

Historical scholars tell us that the hour this woman chooses to go to the well alone to draw water (about noon) is odd.

- It's the hottest part of the day.
- Drawn water would evaporate while being carried.
- The heat can be physically exhausting.
- If she had walked some distance, she'd be sweating and what clothing she had would be stuck to her damp body.

They speculate that she wants to avoid being seen by other people who normally go in the cool mornings or late afternoons to draw water, because of the shame of her reputation.

- She was shunned by other women.
- She was rejected by others.
- She carried shame.

She wants to hide in broad daylight. She is a woman who'd had five husbands, and now has a lover at home.

The Spiritual Thirst of the Samaritan Woman

In my ministry, I regularly encounter people with various levels of sexual brokenness and shame.

I know of one, currently on her 4th husband as well, trying to raise two daughters from husband number 1. Their brokenness affects generations.

In my ministry in Latin America, I talk with many victims of sexual abuse. I talk with victims of rape, of repeated rapes.

I talk with men and women who deal with the shame of sexual flings with members of the opposite sex or same sex.

They feel disgusting, dirty, shameful, broken, and unworthy.

From these conversations, I can only imagine the sense of brokenness the Samaritan woman carried, all wrapped around her sexual history.

While it may be true that she could have been perfectly fine with all the men she had been with, even boasting about it to her peers, her behavior suggests some true inner brokenness. Any bravado she may have had in front of her friends melted away when she was alone.

Perhaps she simply gave up defending herself, choosing to boldly live with another lover, moving in with him before marriage.

Divorced four times suggests that she carries the label "damaged goods, thrown out, rejected" by many.

Maybe those labels screamed at her own mind.

Her spiritual thirst may have had many layers, but the part of it that Jesus went after was her sexual brokenness.

Jesus hit the spiritual thirst

Jesus let the conversation touche on different themes:

- Tensions between Jews and Samaritans
- The historical lineage of Jacob
- Nationalistic pride
- Sexual history
- Cultural rules
- Marriage
- Worship
- Religion
- Gender

But he knew the woman's true spiritual thirst, and spoke right to it. Sexual brokenness led to a discussion of who is truly worthy of worship.

While Jesus could have followed any of the theological rabbit trails in this evangelism conversation, he calmly listened and spoke to her, occasionally re-focusing the conversation.

He didn't let it go. Instead, He revealed himself:

- The Gift of God
- Living Water
- I am He.
- One greater than Jacob
- The one who can tell what we've done.
- A prophet

This revelation changed her life.

> Then, leaving her water jar, the woman went back to the town and said to the people,
> "Come, see a man who told me everything I ever did. Could this be the Messiah?"
> They came out of the town and made their way toward him.
> – John 4:28-30

Today's Prayer

Lord, give me the eyes to see the true spiritual thirst in the people around me. (Read this tutorial for more info)

May I see those who seek to hide from their shame in broad daylight.

Give me the opportunity today to hear the spiritual thirst in a conversation, and grant me the grace to engage the person in conversation about it.

Grant me the patience to avoid the conversational detours.

> Anywhere with Jesus, over land and sea,
> Telling souls in darkness of salvation free;
> Ready as He summons me to go or stay,

> Anywhere with Jesus when He points the way.
> — Jesse B. Pounds, Anywhere with Jesus

Today's Action

Continue praying through your list of friends.

As you do, consider who the Lord is inviting you to engage in conversation.

If you are so directed, setup a coffee time or some other visiting time where the Lord will open the conversational doors.

Download resource:

If you want to learn more about having effective conversations about your faith, consider this DVD set: Effective Conversations

You might like to read . . .

- 30 Days of Prayer - Day 21: Tell of All His Works
- 30 Days of Prayer: Day 18 - Common Spiritual Thirsts
- 30 Days of Prayer: Day 17 - Spiritual Thirst Study
- 30 Days of Prayer: Day 16 - Spiritual Thirst
- How to kill spiritual thirst
- Spiritual Thirst Opens the Conversational Door
- What is Spiritual Thirst?

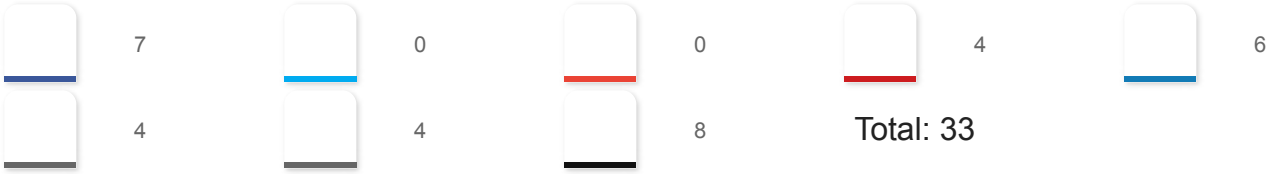
Series Navigation

30 Days of Prayer: Day 18 – Common Spiritual Thirsts

30 Days of Prayer: Day 20 – Spiritual Thirst and Good Works

Related posts:

Prayer Habits of Americans	30 Days of Prayer: Day 5	30 Days of Prayer: Day 20 - Spiritual Thirst and Good Works	30 Days of Prayer: Day 22 - Tell of His Love



Filed Under: Prayer Tagged With: evangelistic prayer, prayer,spiritual thirst

About EvangelismCoach

Chris wants to help you increase the number of conversations that lead people towards Christ. He has studied evangelism and church growth ever since working for a Billy Graham crusade over 20 years ago, and has led countless training seminars throughout North and South America in many different denominations.